

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 NEAE-00 AID-20 EUR-25 BNDE-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 RSR-01 SCI-06 AGR-20 JUSE-00 USIA-12 IGA-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3144

INFO USMISSION UN NY IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3331

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, AF

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS PROGRAM FOR AFGHANISTAN - AERIAL SURVEY

REF: KABUL 3226

1. SINCE REFTEL, TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION WITH AFGHAN DESK IN DEPT AND PERSONAL VISIT EMBPOLOFF NEW YORK AND GENEVA REVEALS THAT MARTENS OF UNFADC INSISTING THAT UN WILL GO FORWARD WITH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OF REMAINING POPPY GROWING AREAS, EMBASSY SKEPTICAL HE WILL BE ABLE MOVE UN BUREAUCRACY WITH ALACRITY NECESSARY TAKE ADVANTAGE PRESENT AND EXPECTED BLOOMING OF POPPY FIELDS. IN ORDER FOR HIM ACHIEVE HIS PLANNED ACTION, NECESSARY FOR UN COMPTROLLERS TO ALLOCATE FUNDS ASAP NEEDED FINANCE AIRCRAFT FOR PHOTOGRAPHY AND FINANCE TDY UN PERSONNAL FOR THIS PURPOSE IN AFGHANISTAN. THESE ACTIONS ESSENTIAL REGARDLESS IF EMBASSY AND USAID ACT AS SURROGATE FOR UN IN INTERIM.

2. SITUATION FURTHER COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT BAKHTAR AIRLINES HAS ONLY ONE DEHAVILLAND OTTER APPROPRIATELY MODIFIED AND CONFIGURED FOR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY. THIS AIRCRAFT COMPLETING AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENT FOR ASIAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN
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CHAKANSUR O/A MAY 7, BUT ITS CONTINUED AVAILABILITY FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC USE BECOMING A PROBLEM BECAUSE BAKHTAR LOST ONE OF ITS FOUR DEHAVILLANDS IN BAMİYAN FOUR WEEKS AGO. LOSS OF AIRCRAFT CAME AT TIME WHEN TOURIST INFLUX NEARING ITS HIGH MARK WHICH CONTINUES THROUGH SUMMER.

3. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, IT WAS PLANNED THAT SUBSEQUENT TO ADB ASSIGNMENT, AIRCRAFT WOULD BECOME AVAILABLE FOR THE LONG PLANNED USAID- BUREC PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY HELMAND VALLEY AREA. WE KNOW THAT SOME POPPIES ARE STILL IN BLOOM IN HALMAND VALLEY AS RESULT ONE DAY VISIT BY ATTACHE AIRCRAFT MAY 4. IT MAY, HOWEVER, TAKE INTERVENTION BY AMBASSADOR WITH AFGHAN AIR AUTHORITY PRESIDENT SULTAN GHAZI TO ASSURE AIRCRAFT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE. IN EXPECTATION THAT AIRCRAFT WILL BE AVAILABLE, DEPUTY CHIEF SUNY TEAM (WHO USED AIRCRAFT FOR AFGHAN DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY) IS ASSISTING IN COMPLETING TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS.

4. POLOFF CONTACTED GHAUS (MFA) MAY 7 ON VERY INFORMAL BASIS REGARDING POSSIBILITY BADAQSHAN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY ON BASIS SUGGESTED BY MARTENS AS RELAYED IN MAY 5 TELECON FROM FLATEN TO LEWIS. GHAUS SHOWED SOME IRRITATION AT IDEA, REPEATED REMARKS RE OVERALL SENSITIVITY OF AREA AND SAID RGA HAS DONE EVERYTHING REQUESTED BY UN. HE URGED UN GET DAVIES TO KABUL IMMEDIATELY FOR DISCUSSION THIS AND REST OF PROGRAM. POLOFF COUNTERED DAVIES APPARENTLY COULD NOT GET HERE IN TIME SINCE POPPY BLOOMING SEASON IN BADAQSHAN THIS YEAR IS ROUGHLY MAY 25- JUNE 9. POLOFF REITERATED INFORMALLY PROPOSAL THAT UN SEND MAN HERE TRY SET UP PROGRAM DRAWING UPON EXPERTISE AVAILABLE IN TIME FOR THIS GROWING SEASON. GHAUS SAID BEST CHANNEL TO DO THIS WOULD BE UN CABLE VIA UNDP PROPOSING MAN COME ASAP BUT CAVEATED POLOFF SHOULD SAY " GHAUS DID NOT COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE." FYI: WE REGARD ABOVE AS ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE; BUT WE ARE NOT CERTAIN RE CAUSES GHAUS' OBVIOUS IRRITATION WITH PROPOSAL. WE SUGGEST MARTENS OR SCHURMANN PURSUE MATTER AT ONCE EVEN THOUGH UN REP MAY BE SUCCESSFUL IN PREPARING NOW FOR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OF FLOWERING POPPIES IN BADAQSHAN. END FYI.

5. IN LIGHT OUT SKEPTICISM ABOUT UN' S ABILITY MOVE WITH ALACRITY, IT OUR JUDGMENT WE SHOULD MOVE AHEAD AT THIS TIME WITH HELMAND VALLEY FLIGHT PROPOSAL AND IF BY SOME UNUSUAL DEVELOPMENT UN IS ONBOARD WITH FUNDING, PERSONNEL AND COMPLETION ARRANGEMENTS
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WITH RGA IN TIME TAKE ADVANTAGE BADAQSHAN, UN SUPPORTED BY EMBASSY COULD HOPEFULLY ACQUIRE USE OF AIRCRAFT FOR BADAQSHAN. FURTHERMORE, PHOTOGRAPHED HELMAND VALLEY WILL GIVE US OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE JUDGMENT WHETHER ORNOT PRESENTLY AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT IN AFGHANISTAN CAN PROVIDE US AND UN WITH RESULTANT PHOTOGRAPHS USEABLE FOR POPPY MONITORING. SINCE THIS WOULD BE SPIN- OFF BENEFIT FROM MAJOR PURPOSE HELMAND VALLEY FLYING FOR USAID/ HAVA

ECONOMIC PLANNING, WE WOULD LOSE NOTHING IF PHOTOGRAPHS WERE
NOT USEABLE FOR POPPY PURPOSES. IF THIS WERE TO BE THE RESULT,
IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO RETHINK AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY APPROACH
IN TERMS DIFFERENT TYPE CAMERA AND FILM.
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